



Draft Minutes of the Governor's Interagency Council on Health Disparities
February 10, 2016
Department of Social and Health Services
Point Plaza East, Building 2, Third Floor, 6860 Capitol Blvd SE, Tumwater, WA 98501

HDC members present:

Marietta Bobba
Gail Brandt
Vazaskia Crockrell
Sara Franklin
Patrick Woods (for Nova Gattman)

Diane Klontz
Frankie Manning
Millie Piazza
Lori Lee Wada
Greg Williamson

HDC members participating by phone:

Nora Coronado
Emma Medicine White Crow

Kim Eads
Mona Johnson

HDC members absent:

Willie Frank
Stephen Kutz

Gwendolyn Shepherd

HDC Staff present:

Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant
Christy Hoff, Health Policy Analyst

Kelie Kahler, Communications Consultant
Sierra Rotakhina, Health Policy Analyst

Guests and Other Participants:

John Bowden, Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
Nicholas Brown, Governor's Office
Marianna Goheen, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Sarah Gorda Port Gamble S'klallam Tribal Health Services
Patricia Lally, Seattle Office for Civil Rights

Rebecca Lee, Cross Cultural Health Care Program
Jill Maughan-Wisheart, Department of Health
M. Perla, Department of Social and Health Services
Tommy Simpson III, Department of Health
Matias Valenzuela, King County Office of Equity and Social Justice

Frankie Manning, Council Vice Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file). She asked Council Members, staff, and members of the public to introduce themselves. She said Chair Medicine White Crow lost her voice so she would chair the meeting

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

***Motion:** Approve February 10, 2016 agenda*

***Motion/Second:** Lori Wada/Greg Williamson. Approved unanimously.*

2. ADOPTION OF DECEMBER 9, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

***Motion:** Approve December 9, 2015 minutes*

***Motion/Second:** Diane Klontz/Lori Wada. Approved unanimously.*

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COUNCIL BUSINESS

Christy Curwick Hoff, Council Staff, reminded members about the Council's policy for communicating with the Legislature. She said the Council has not taken a position on any bills to date this session. She said that since the end of last session, staff completed five Health Impact Reviews – three full reviews and two updates. Staff was also asked to testify on HIR findings five times. Ms. Hoff shared that the Council's December 2015 Update to the Governor and Legislature was reviewed and approved by the Governor's Office and is now available on the Council's Web site. She said she submitted a transformation project proposal for the Medicaid Waiver on behalf of the Council—it was related to the Council's recommendation to provide Medicaid reimbursement for doula care. She said the Council would be honoring African American History month with posts via social media and its Web site and welcomed input and feedback. Finally, she said the Board of Health was recruiting for a vacant Health Policy Advisor position. Greg Williamson, Council Member, asked about the recruitment status. Ms. Hoff clarified that the application date has passed and they are selecting candidates for interviews. Vice Chair Manning applauded the work that staff does to support the Council, highlighting the importance of Health Impact Reviews.

4. BRIEFING—KING COUNTY EQUITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Vice Chair Manning introduced Matias Valenzuela, Director of the King County Office of Equity and Social Justice. Mr. Valenzuela gave his presentation (on file at Tab 4). His presentation included data in King County to show how health outcomes and social and economic indicators vary by race and place, populations prioritized under the initiative, and accomplishments to date (e.g., community engagement continuum and translation executive order). He shared lessons learned, including the importance of strong leadership, building capacity so equity can be integrated into everyone's work, establishing tools and measures, and providing opportunities to talk about race and privilege.

Sara Franklin, Council Member, asked for more information on the diversity of King County's workforce. Mr. Valenzuela said county workforce data reveal more diversity among the interview pool than among those they hire. He said they encourage departments to watch an online anti-bias video before every interview panel. Patrick Woods, Workforce Education and Training Coordinating Board, asked about the community engagement continuum and if there were measures for tracking success. Mr. Valenzuela said they are tracking health insurance enrollment and looking at maps to identify the uninsured. He said this work to increase enrollment is an example of how they were able to measure success of community engagement strategies. Marietta Bobba, Council Member, asked if there was an opportunity to apply an equity lens related to people with disabilities. Mr. Valenzuela said they focus on their priority populations but they do consider equity for others too. Vice Chair Manning thanked Mr. Valenzuela for their work.

BRIEFING—SEATTLE RACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Vice Chair Manning introduced Patricia Lally, Director of the Seattle Office of Civil Rights, who gave her presentation (on file at Tab 5). Her presentation covered the 2014 Executive Order, highlighted why they focus on institutional and structural racism, and discussed some of the tools and resources they use to build racial equity, including the racial equity toolkit. Member Franklin asked about data to show how the Fair Chance Employment policy (i.e., ban the box) has been implemented and how effective it has been. Ms. Lally said it has been difficult, adding that with wage laws, people file claims but with Fair Chance Employment, they have to find other ways to investigate compliance. Ms. Lally discussed how the initiative leads with race, but they are also working on other forms of oppression. Member Williamson said that by addressing racial equity, they have the ability to affect all communities to create an equitable society.

5. BRIEFING—GOVERNOR'S EQUITY ACTIVITIES

Vice Chair Manning introduced Nicholas Brown, General Counsel for Governor Inslee. Mr. Brown said diversity was important to the Governor, adding that the majority of people on his executive team are women and half are people of color. He said they are still working to improve diversity among the cabinet and especially in the courts. He said they recently convened a subcabinet on diversity, currently focused on improving diversity in contracting. They held a half-day cultural competency training for cabinet directors and were planning a second training to address issues like privilege and bias. He announced they were planning a Race and Equity Summit for April. In addition, they recently hired a new director for the Office of Minority and Women Owned Businesses. He said that stakeholders were asking the Governor to address I-200, as they believed it was prohibiting state government from addressing discrimination in our agencies. Mr. Brown said they asked the Attorney General for a formal opinion on how to operate within I-200.

Gail Brandt, Council Member, asked about the target audience and intended outcomes for the summit. Mr. Brown said the target audience included the public and government. He said they were planning sessions related to education and law enforcement. He said they hoped the summit would result in action items including policy proposals. Member Franklin asked about efforts to retain diversity among employees. Mr. Brown acknowledged this was an area for improvement. Member Crockrell suggested setting goals in Results WA to increase employee diversity for all levels of pay. Vice Chair Manning thanked Mr. Brown for attending and said she appreciated the work the Governor's office was doing and that the Council was happy to be a partner in those efforts.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public provided comments. Council members were referred to written testimony submitted and included (on file).

7. UPDATE—EQUITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT WORKGROUP

Ms. Hoff and Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, provided updates on the Council's work to compile and share cultural competency trainings with state agencies and to turn the equity guidance that was included in the Council's June 2015 report into a standalone document. They also plan to compile Health Equity tools. Member Williamson suggested state agencies could benefit from learning about processes to promote equity in other agencies. Staff shared updates from the Equity and State Government Workgroup's meetings on November 23 and February 3, including highlights from a briefing about Tacoma's Office of Equity and Civil Rights. Ms. Hoff said the workgroup was recommending the Council consider postponing the selection of new priorities for a year so that staff resources could be devoted to the equity in state government work. Council members concurred that this should be the sole area of focus.

***Motion:** The Council postpones the selection of new priority health topics until 2017 in order to devote limited staff resources to the Council's current priority of promoting equity in state government.*

***Motion/Second:** Greg Williamson/ Vazaskia Crockrell. Approved unanimously*

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Manning adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.